



SAFETY ALERT

USAREUR Provost Marshal

At approximately 1730, a soldier went to a military club and consumed several alcoholic beverages over a period of five hours. The soldier then proceeded to drive his POV off-post.

Once off-post, the soldier drifted into an oncoming lane striking the passenger mirror of a stopped car. He then accelerated around a curve, missed the intended turn-off, drove on and struck a light pole. The light pole snapped and penetrated the roof of the vehicle and struck the soldier on the head, knocking him unconscious. The vehicle continued and ran over a five-meter long security hedge, struck a parked vehicle, and finally stopped against a house.



The soldier died of massive head trauma.

FINDINGS

The soldier consumed several alcoholic beverages at an installation club and drove off post unimpeded. His blood alcohol content was 0.18. Soldier frequented the installation club but did not normally drive home. This was a single vehicle accident. Environmental conditions were thick fog and wet roads.

RECOMMENDED CONTROL MEASURES

- Installation clubs should prominently advertise the Designated Driver Program.
- Staff at installation clubs should increase their situational awareness in order to monitor behavior of high-risk soldiers (frequent drinking patrons). The club management and unit commanders must work together to identify high risk individual.
- Commanders should complete a Risk Assessment on all soldiers in order to identify high risk personnel. This form can be found at:
<http://www.per.hqusareur.army.mil/services/safetydivision/main.htm>
- Unit should institute programs to provide non-punitive rides for soldiers who have had too much to drink.
- Commanders should address alcohol consumption and responsibilities associated with drinking at safety briefings.
- ~~Commanders should conduct periodic POV inspections.~~